

International Merchandise Trade Statistics – Monthly Provisional Highlights

The Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics (VBOS) is delighted to announce the release on its Provisional monthly Highlight for **November 2023**. These highlights provide valuable key economic insights to trade concepts and dynamics. The format content in these monthly provisional highlights is as below:

Concepts	Definition
1. National Sustainability Development Plan (NSDP Indicators)	The NSDP serves as the Country's highest level policy framework. The indicators provide a system to monitor progress. To report on trade related NSDP indicators, some adaptations has been made. This include ENV E.3.1 report value, not volume ECO 1.5.2 and ECO 1/6/2 reporting on Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) agreement, ECO 1.7.1 reporting on level of export production of major commodities.
2. Trade Balance of Major Partner Countries	Balance of Trade is the value of a country's exports and the value of a country's imports for a given period. The Major Partner Countries are: Australia, China, Fiji, France, Hongkong, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States of America
3. Trade Balance of Pacific Islands, excluding Melanesian Islands, Australia and New Zealand	The Pacific Islands included are: American Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, French Polynesia, Tuvalu and Wallis and Futuna
4. Trade by Trade Agreement	The Melanesian Free Trade Agreement (MFTA) aims to achieve regional integration of economics in the MSG.

Melanesian Spearhead Group	It comprises four (4) Countries namely, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
5. Major Principal Exports	Major Exports are commodities that account for the majority of the total export value. The commodity group focus is Beef, Cocoa, Coconut Oil, Copra and Kava. Focus is a time series analysis of current monthly exports from 2018 to 2023
6. Top 5 New Major Exports	The traditional VNSO tables report on 13 major commodities. The rest of the commodities are grouped as "other products". This investigates the main commodities within "other products".
7. Major Principal Imports	Major imports are commodities that account for the majority of the total import value. The commodity group focus is Alcoholic drinks, Articles of Iron and Steel, Medicaments, Petroleum oils and /Rice. Focus is a timeseries analysis of current monthly imports from 2018-2023
8. Top 5 New Major Imports	The Traditional VNSO tables report on 47 major import commodities. The rest of the commodities are grouped as "other Imports". This investigates the main commodities within "other imports".
9. Imports of Dietary Risk Factors for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD)	The Pacific has a growing reputation as having one of the world's highest NCD rates. These major NCD, is share for behavioural risk factors; tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol. This investigates some of the dietary risk factors including Bakery Products, Canned Meats, Confectionary, Cordial and Noodles.
10. Imports of Food and Products Targeted as those that can be Potentially Produced Domestically	Import substitution is the idea that; blocking imports of manufactured goods can help an economy by increasing the demand for domestically produced goods. The imports of foods and products targeted include: Canned Mackerel, Canned Tunas, Chicken and Chicken eggs.

OFFICIAL



VANUATU BUREAU of STATISTICS
Private Mail Bag 9019
Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
Port Vila, Vanuatu
+678 33040/22110/22111
VBoS_stats
stats@vanuatu.gov.vu
www.vnso.gov.vu

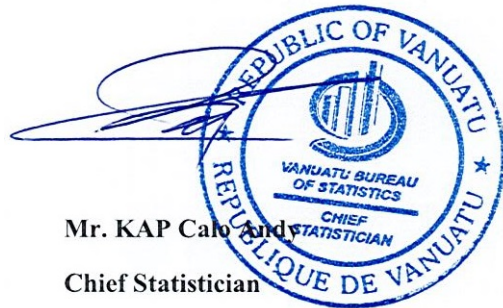


“For more information, **please do not hesitate to contact the Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics.**”

You can reach them through the following channels:

- **Telephone:** +678 22110 / 22111 / 33040 / VOIP 1124
- **Email:** stats@vanuatu.gov.vu
- **Website:** Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics

Feel free to get in touch with us if you have any questions or need further assistance!



Mr. KAP Calo And
Chief Statistician

International Merchandise Trade Statistics - November 2023 Highlights

1. National Sustainable Development Plan Indicators (NSDP)

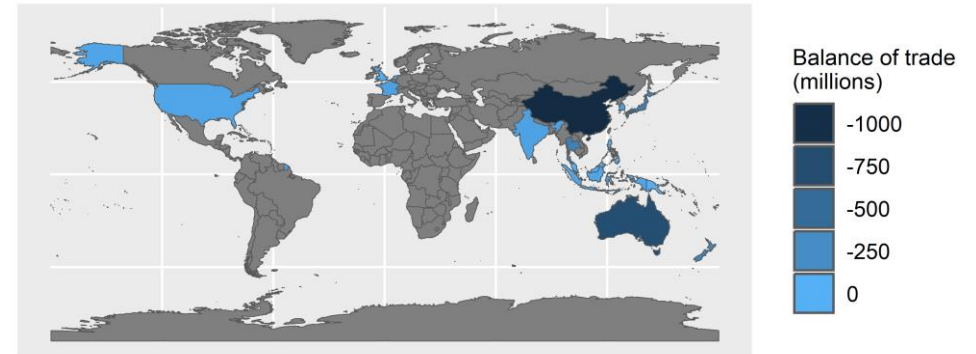
Policy Objectives	SMART Indicators	Indicator Value
ENV 1.3: Reduce reliance on food imports through import substitution for food products that can be produced domestically	ENV 1.3.1 Total annual volume of imports of food and products targeted by DARD as those that can be produced domestically (including value-added products)	22
ECO 1.5: Increase access to markets for Vanuatu exports	ECO 1.5.2 Trade by trade agreement (value)	381
	ECO 1.5.3 Balance of trade by major partner countries	-4,396
ECO 1.6: Require all new trade agreements to demonstrate tangible benefits in the national interest	ECO 1.6.2 Total estimated value of trade agreement as proportion of GDP	0.36
ECO 1.7: Stimulate economic diversification to spread the benefits of growth and increase economic stability	ECO 1.7.1 Level of production of major commodities to include cocoa and copra	596
ECO 4.3: Increase production and processing of niche commodities, and value addition to commodities in which Vanuatu enjoys a comparative advantage	ECO 4.3.2 Ratio of processed export commodities (including coconut, kava, cocoa, coffee) to raw exports	3

Total value of imports targeted by Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) as those that can be produced domestically is VT 22 million (ENV 1.3.1). The products imported included Potatoes (VT 12 million), Onions and Shallots (VT 4 million), Oranges (VT 3 million) and Carrots and Turnips (VT 2 million). (Refer to Table 16)

The total value of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) agreement is VT 381 million (ECO 1.5.2). This Trade-by-Trade agreement included total exports of VT 61 million and total imports of VT 321 million. (Refer to Table 11). The Balance of Trade by Major Partner Countries is VT - 4,396 million (ECO 1.5.3) (Refer to Table 8)

Level of production of major commodities is VT 596 million (ECO 1.7.1). The major commodities included Beef VT 9 million, Cocoa VT 66 million, Coconut Oil VT 22 million, Coffee VT 1 million, Copra VT 52 million, Kava VT 405 million and Wood VT 40 million. The ratio of processed export commodities including coconut, kava, cocoa, and coffee to raw exports is 3 (ECO 4.3.2). Total value of processed exports is VT 410 million and total value of raw exports is VT 138 million. (Refer to Table 6)

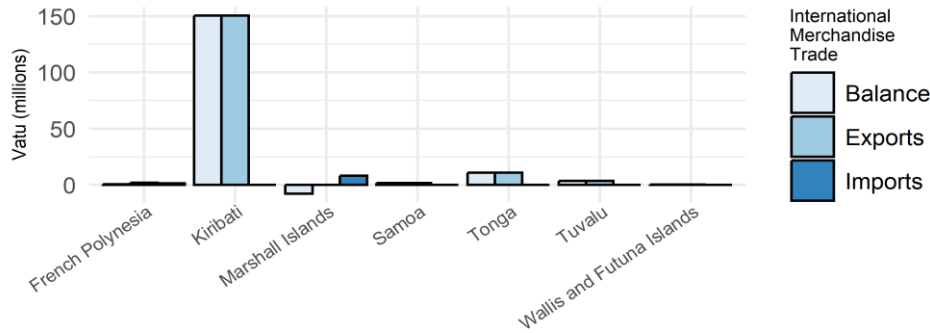
2. Trade Balance by Major Partner Countries



Balance of trade by major partner countries is VT -4,396 million. The main countries that account for this Balance is China (VT -1,038 million), Australia (VT -735 million), Singapore (VT- 592 million), New Zealand (VT -311 million), and Thailand (VT -333 million). These countries represent 68 per cent of the total Balance by Major Partner Countries (VT -3,010 million). (Refer to Table 8)

Major imports from China were Machinery & Electrical Appliances (VT 310 million) and Base metals & articles thereof (VT 260 million). Major imports from Australia were Prepared Foodstuffs, Beverages, Alcohol, and Tobacco (VT 187 million) and Machinery & Electrical Appliances (VT 144 million). Major imports from Singapore were Mineral Products (VT 491 million); and Machinery & Electrical Appliances (VT 56 million). Major imports from New Zealand were Machinery and Electrical Appliances (VT 118 million) and Wood, Cork and Plaiting Materials (VT 64 million), Major imports from Thailand were Vehicles and Transport Equipment (VT 273 million), and Prepared foodstuffs, beverages, spirits & tobacco (VT 45 million).

3. Trade Balance of Pacific Islands (excluding Melanesian Islands, Australia and New Zealand)



Total Trade Balance of Pacific Islands excluding Melanesia, Australia and New Zealand is VT 159 million. This was driven by exports of Kava to Kiribati VT 151 million, Electrical appliances to Tonga VT 11 million and pharmaceuticals to Tuvalu VT 3 million, and imports of Plastic rubber and articles from the Marshall Islands (VT 8 million), and chemical products from French Polynesia (VT 1 million).

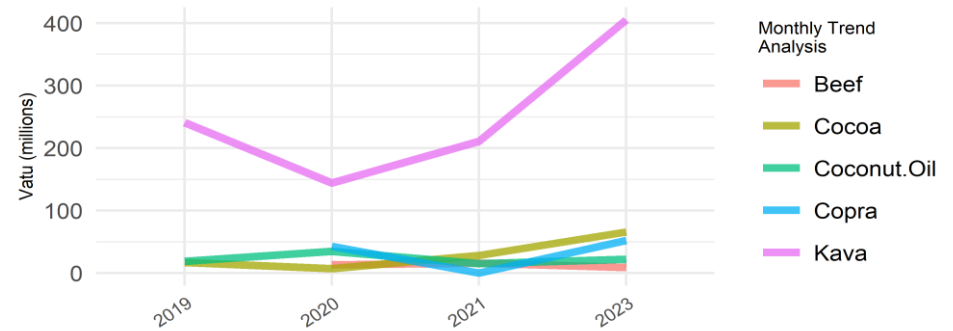
4. Trade by Trade Agreement- Melanesian Spearhead Group

SITC Description	FIJI EXPORTS	FIJI IMPORTS	PAPUA NEW GUINEA EXPORTS	PAPUA NEW GUINEA IMPORTS	SOLOMON ISLANDS EXPORTS	SOLOMON ISLANDS IMPORTS	Total
Basic Manufactured Products	0	5					5
Beverages & Tobacco		2					2
Chemical Products	0	5			1		6
Crude Materials Except Fuels	49						49
Food & Live Animals	1	219	9			81	310
Machines & Transport Equipment	1				0		1
Miscellaneous	0	8					8
Manufactured Goods	0	0					0
Oils, Fats & Waxes	0	0					0
Grand Total	51	240	9		1	81	381

The major imports from Fiji are Bread Pastry Cakes, Biscuits (VT 49 million), and other Prepared or Preserved meat (VT 47 million). and from the Solomon Islands is Prepared or Preserved Fish (VT 81 million).

The major export to Papua New Guinea is Beef VT 9 million, and Pharmaceuticals VT 1 million as major exports to the Solomon Islands.

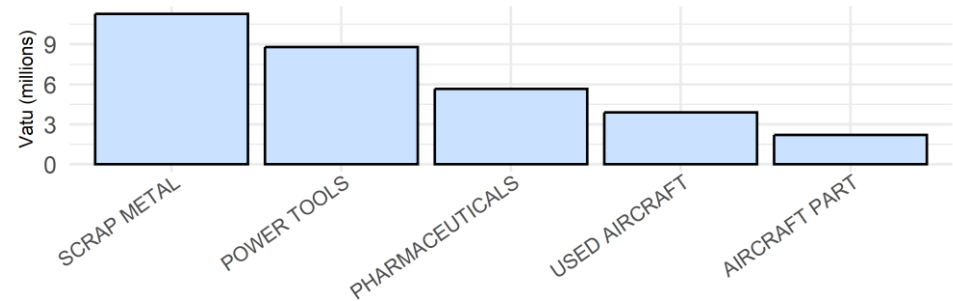
5. Principle Exports



The level of production of the top five Major Principal Exports is VT 554 million. The Principal Exports identified included: Kava VT 405 million, Cocoa VT 66 million, Copra VT 52 million, Coconut Oil VT 22 million, and Beef VT 9 million. (Refer to Table 6)

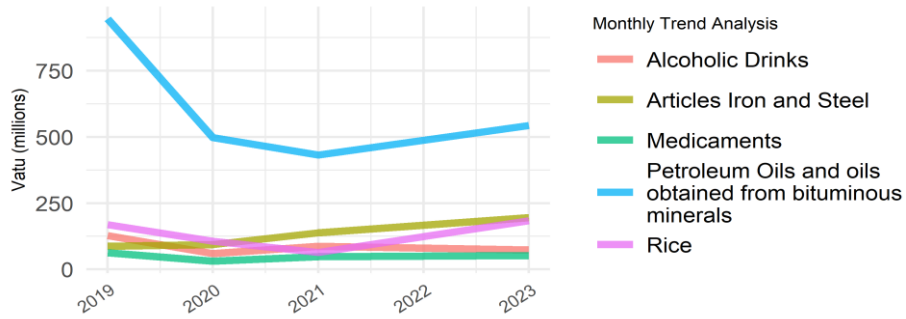
The main country of destination for Kava is Kiribati VT 148 million, followed by New Zealand VT 94 million, China VT 59 million and Fiji VT 49 million. The major country of destination for Cocoa is Malaysia VT 50 million, Copra is Philippines VT 34 million, for Coconut Oil is Taiwan VT 13 million and Beef was Papua New Guinea VT 9 million.

Top 5 New Major Exports



Total value of Scrap Metal VT 11 million, Power Tools VT 9 million, Pharmaceuticals VT 6 million, Used Aircraft VT 4 million, and Aircraft parts VT 2 million.

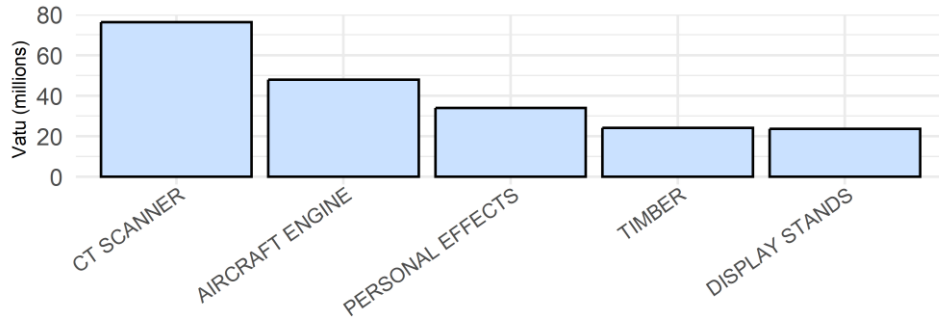
6. Principle Imports



Total value of top five Principal imports is (VT 1,049 million). The Principal Imports included Alcoholic Drinks (VT 74 million), Articles of Iron and Steel (VT 195 million), Medicaments (VT 52 million), Petroleum Oils (VT 543 million), and Rice (VT 184 million). (Refer to Table 7)

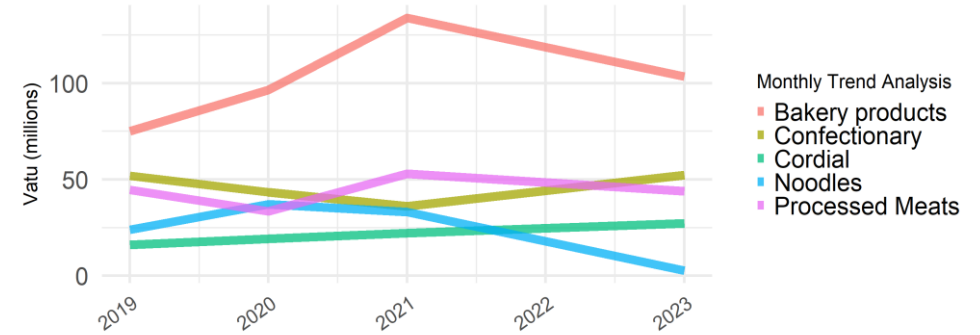
The main country of origin for Alcoholic Drinks is Australia (VT 39 million). The main country of origin for Articles of Iron and Steel is China (VT 149 million), and Medicaments is New Zealand (VT 17 million). The main country of origin for Petroleum Oils is Singapore (VT 487 million), and Rice is Taiwan (VT 52 million).

7. Top 5 New Major Imports



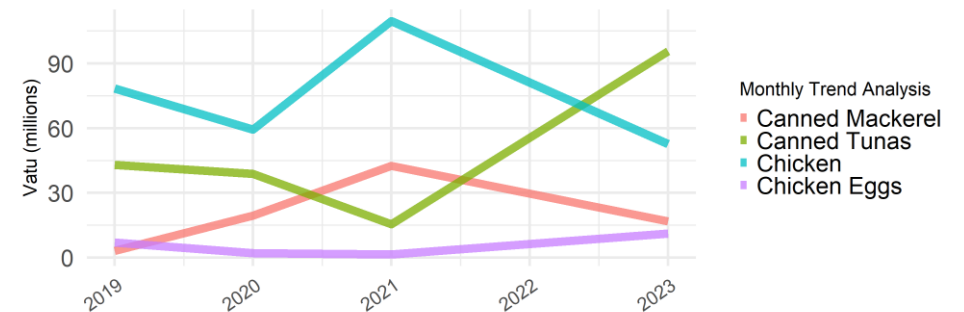
Total value of CT Scanner (VT 76 million), Aircraft Engine (VT 48 million), Personal effects (VT 34 million), Timber (VT 24 million), and Display Stands (VT 24 million).

8. Imports of Dietary Risk Factors for Noncommunicable Diseases



Total value of Bakery Products is VT 103 million and are mainly imported from Fiji (VT 50 million). Total value of Confectionary is VT 52 million and are mainly imported from Australia (VT 16 million). Total value of Cordial is VT 27 million and are mainly imported from Malaysia (VT 13 million). Total value of Noodles is VT 3 million and are mainly imported from Australia (VT 2 million). Total value of Processed Meats is VT 44 million and are mainly imported from China (VT 11million). (Refer to Table 15)

9. Imports of food and products targeted as those that can be produced domestically



Total value of Canned Mackerel is VT 17 million and are mainly imported from Fiji (VT 13 million). Total value of Canned Tunas is VT 96 million and are mainly imported from Solomon Islands (VT 81 million). Total value of Chicken is VT 53 million and are mainly imported from Fiji (VT 19 million). Total value of Chicken Eggs is VT 11 million and are mainly imported from Fiji (VT 11 million). (Refer to Table 17)